Administrator,

On November 16, Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta and myself, along with ORD Lab Directors and senior scientists, will visit the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Reedy Creek Lab. This half day visit is to tour the lab and learn about their S&T capabilities, discuss topics of interest to the state and related science and technical needs, and potential collaborations. ORD scientists will engage on topics that NC DEQ identified were of most interest to their state, including PFAS, post Hurricane Florence water sampling/analysis, EPA's emergency response air monitoring capabilities, and algal toxins.

Hot issues

Update to EPA method for analyzing PFAS in drinking water

ORD has recently developed **EPA Method 537.1**, *Determination of Selected Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)*. This is a standardized method for analyzing 18 different PFAS in drinking water. The method updates EPA Method 537 by adding a component of GenX and three additional PFAS compounds. ORD cleared the method for publication after a multi-laboratory evaluation and internal and external peer reviews.

Using CyAN Data Can Help Avoid Big Costs

The Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) is a multi-agency project with representatives from NASA, NOAA, USGS, and EPA working to use satellite data in an early warning indicator system for algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems. The CyAN team has been working with Resources for the Future (RFF) to quantify the socio-economic benefits of using CyAN satellite products for issuing health advisories. RFF recently presented their preliminary findings case study from 2017. In that case study, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) detected an algal bloom in a Utah lake using satellite data. They warned people not to use the lake for swimming or boating and closed portions of the lake all together. RFF's assessment suggests that Utah DEQ's actions avoided a total societal cost of around $600,000. The costs avoided included about 7,860 fewer people being exposed to the harmful algal bloom and 400 fewer cases of gastrointestinal illness.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

On November 13-14, the Air and Energy Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) is holding a public meeting at the EPA Campus in Research Triangle Park, NC. This meeting will support the subcommittee's review of the Air and Energy Draft Strategic Research Action Plan.